

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

REFERENCE COPY

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

~~INTELLIGENCE REPORT~~

COUNTRY Austria

DATE: 25X1C

SUBJECT Staff of the Osterreichische Volksstimme

INFO. [REDACTED]

DIST. October, 1947

25X1C

PAGES 424

SUPPLEMENT

25X1X

ORIGIN [REDACTED]

document is hereby regraded to  
CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the  
policy of the Central Intelligence to the

POLICY DIRECTION

1. Daily editorial policy for the central organ of the Austrian Communist Party, the Osterreichische Volksstimme, is determined each morning by Johann Koplenig, Chairman of the KPO, Friedl Farnberg, first secretary of the Party, and Erwin Zucker-Schilling, Editor-in-Chief of the Volksstimme. They meet at the Communist offices in the Berggasse, following which Zucker-Schilling returns to the Volksstimme offices and issues instructions to his staff, using notes taken at the earlier meeting. Of the three interested members of the Central Committee, Farnberg is said to have the greatest influence on policy. He is described as very intelligent, polite, and agreeable.
2. When economic questions come up for discussion at policy meetings, Dr. Arpad Haas and Dr. Ludwig Soswinsky, Party economic expert, are occasionally invited to sit in as consultants. Haas is more influential than Soswinsky. He is considered an able writer and is the author of most of the Volksstimme's important articles on economic subjects.
3. Lyssin (or Lissin) acts in the capacity of Press Attaché at the Soviet Legation in Vienna and exercises supervision over all political policy of the Volksstimme.

PERSONALITIES

4. Following are personalities on the editorial staff of the Volksstimme:

Erwin Zucker (alias Zucker-Schilling)

Editor-in-Chief. Paradisgasse 51/4, Vienna XIX.

Erwin Zucker, an Austrian citizen, was born on 15 August 1903 in Vienna. He learned the trade of a mechanic, but never used this skill. He joined the Communist Party in his youth and worked as a journalist, coming into conflict with the law on numerous occasions. He visited Moscow

CLASSIFICATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Document No. 004

NO CHANGE in Class. [ ]

DECLASSIFIED

Class. CHANGED TO: TS

DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

Auth: DDA REG. 77/1783

Approved For Release 2001/03/05 : CIA-RDP82-00457R001000190004-0

REFERENCE CENTER LIBRARY

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

several times and was associated with Honner and Koplenig. In 1928 he was charged with treason by Austrian authorities, but nothing seems to have come of this. While abroad Zucker used the name of Schilling. Whenever he returned to Vienna from Moscow he always travelled via Berlin, where he stayed at Alexanderstrasse 25.

It is reported that Zucker weathered the war years in Moscow with Fischer, and may have directed radio broadcasts to Austria under the name of Franz Schilling. Zucker was elected to the Central Committee of the KPÖ on 19 April 1948, and is its press adviser. He is said to be a protégé of Ilya Ehrenburg, and is also believed to have had dealings of an ambiguous nature with Hofrat Weber of the Volkspartei press. Zucker was the commercial director of the Globus Verlag until recently, when that position was taken over by Dr. Heinrich Hasler.

Zucker is at present living with his former wife, Barbara nee Koch (it is not known whether they remarried after their divorce in 1929 or 1930) and his four-year-old son at Paradisgasse 51. Until recently they lived in luxury and entertained many guests (all Communists), but of late they seem to have reduced their scale of living. They are on very good terms with the Communist Police Vice President, Strobl, who lives in the same house.

#### Dr. Siegfried Klausner

Local Editor of Volksstimme and Editor of Tagblatt am Montag, Vereinsgasse 12/15, Vienna II.

A journalist by profession, Klausner is married but has no children. Prior to 1938 he was editor and manager of Telegraf, the leading Vienna evening paper. During this time he was a Social-Democrat, well known for his anti-Nazi views and newspaper editorials. Upon the annexation of Austria he was forced to flee with his wife to avoid internment. All his property was taken or forcibly purchased from him. Klausner went to Belgrade, where he became sales representative for an international newspaper syndicate. Following the German invasion of Yugoslavia, the Klausners were forced into hiding with friends in Belgrade, and late in 1942 he joined the Yugoslav Partisans and the Communist Party of Yugoslavia. He returned to Vienna shortly after the end of the war and obtained his present apartment with the aid of the Soviet Commander of the Second District. Soon after his return to Vienna he became Local Editor of the Volksstimme.

Mrs. Klausner is not a member of the Communist Party, but is an occasional contributor to the Communist Stimme der Frau. Klausner is not a "Moscow" Communist, and several attempts he has made to publish his own independent evening paper may be known to his chief, Zucker-Schilling, or to other leading Communists. It may be a result of this that he is not consulted on matters of policy affecting the Volksstimme; Klausner himself has recently suspected that, regardless of his position, he is not completely trusted by high Communist officials.

Klausner has a pleasing manner, but his abilities are limited to journalism and he cannot be considered a political figure. His left leg is almost completely paralyzed from a childhood attack of infantile paralysis and he cannot walk without the use of canes or crutches. He is about sixty-five years old; wears heavy horn-rimmed glasses; is almost bald; has a heavy mustache; round face; weighs approximately 150 pounds; has a

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

REFERENCE CENTER LIBRARY

121311

paunchy figure.

Gustav Megerer

Megerer is Editorial Director of the Volksstimme. Formerly a manufacturer of synthetic jewelry, he is a convinced Communist of long standing. It is reported that he wished to resign from the Volksstimme staff because he did not agree with current Communist policy, but that Zucker-Schilling persuaded him to remain.

Wilhelm von Heffzern

It is reported that Heffzern was a Social-Democrat until 1934, when he turned to the political right, styled himself "Baron" and became a sub-editor of Am Abend. In 1945 he turned to the left, dropped his title, and became a trusted member of the KPO and Assistant Editor of the Volksstimme.

Dr. Bruno Frei (Real name: Benedict Freistadt; aliases: Benedict Hauser, Samuel Frei, Benno Frei, Bruno Freistadt, Herman Escandon.)

Now an Austrian citizen, Frei (stadt) was born in Czechoslovakia in 1897. He lived a number of years in France, Germany and Mexico, and married a native of Toledo, Spain. He joined the Communist Party as late as 1934 or early 1935, and was used to penetrate and influence intellectual and bourgeois circles. Frei is alleged to be the former head of the Paris branch of the Comintern. He was wanted by police in Austria in 1940 on charges of high treason, was interned in France, but managed to escape to Mexico in 1940 or 1941. In 1945 he worked as a foreign correspondent for the New York German-American. He now works for Globus Verlag and is also a member of the Volksstimme editorial staff. Frei stands high in the ranks of the KPO.

Max Guru

It is reported that Guru is Editor-in-Chief of the Communist papers Die Rodoute and the emeryonic Der Igel, Assistant Editor of the Tagblatt am Montag, former Chief Editor of the Wiener Revue, and Cultural Editor of the Volksstimme. Until 1938 Guru was engaged in the illegal publishing of the Nazi papers Osterreichischer Beobachter and Neue Zeitung. He served in the German Army during the war and became a Communist after the capture of Vienna. He is thirty-two years old, a German national from Munich, and the son of a Hamburg opera singer.

Auer

Auer has been identified as the Volksstimme's muckraker. He returned from Australia in 1946 and now lives in a KPO boarding house.

Professor Rainer Kora-Korber

Korber, a former Kraft Durch Freude member, is the official cartoonist and stripwriter of the KPO. He has only one eye. Korber has painted a portrait of Konev. He frequents Soviet Headquarters in Vienna and is extremely friendly with Max Guru.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

REFERENCE CENTER LIBRARY

121311

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~Irre Waldmann

Waldmann is the music critic of the Volksstimme and other Communist publications, former editor of the Wiener Revue and sub-editor of Die Redoute. He worked for a textile firm in England until 1937, came back to Austria and won the Iron Cross (1st class) on the Eastern front during the war. He is a moderate Communist and moves in intellectual and social circles for the Party. Brother of Erwin Waldmann.

Erwin Waldmann

It is reported that Erwin Waldmann is the owner of the Communist Theater an Praterstern, which was given him by the Communist Party Committee of the II. Bezirk. He plays the toady to Luckner-Schilling.

Joachim Bremer

Olzoltgasse 1, Vienna III

Bremer is said to be employed by the International News Service. He boasts that he secured the dismissal of his first (anti-Soviet) American superior. He has connections with the Österreichische Zeitung and has the ear of a number of Russian officers.

~~This document contains information affecting the national defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Act, 50, U.S.C. 31 and 32 as amended. Its transmission or the revelation of its contents in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

REFERENCE CENTER LIBRARY